

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 11-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8 are amended. The amendments introduce no new matter, as they are amended to include features recited in dependent claims. Claims 2 and 3 are amended for form. Claims 4 and 10 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in each of these claims. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claims 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 is amended to obviate the rejection. Further, the amendments to claim 7 obviate the rejection of claim 11, which depends from claim 7. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8 and 11 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 3, rejects claims 1-7, 9, 10 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP-A-2000-71722 to Ogawa in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0230021 to Cottrell and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,079,467 to Ueyoko. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, among other features, wherein an inner end in the tire's radial direction of the bead core outside as viewed from the tire's width direction is so placed that a vertical distance from a tire bead base or its extension is not more than 3 mm. The combination of applied references cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested these features.

At the outset, it should be noted that the Office Action's reliance on Ogawa and Ueyoko in rejecting the pending claims is unreasonable. The pending claims recite a runflat tire. In contrast, Ogawa is not directed to a runflat. In this regard, the means for achieving any object to which the pending claims pertain cannot be derived from Ogawa. Likewise, the

tire disclosed in Ueyoko is not a runflat tire. The tire is not intended to operate under the runflat condition. Furthermore, the tire of Ueyoko has a bead structure in which the carcass ply is turned around the bead core. Such a construction is completely different from the bead structure of the pending claims. In this regard, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have relied on Ueyoko to derive the claimed tire with any degree of predictability or any reasonable explanation of success. Additionally, it should be noted that the claimed tire aims to increase the durability and the bead-securing force even when the internal pressure is 0 kPa. This construction prevents the bead from disengaging from the rim during running in the runflat state. Therefore, the claimed tire provides advantages not realized by the prior art. For at least these reasons, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have relied on Ogawa and Ueyoko to derive the claimed tire. Thus, the Office Action's reliance on these references is unreasonable.

Furthermore, the combination of applied references cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the above-recited features. The Office Action relies on Ueyoko for suggesting the claimed vertical distance range recited in claim 1. For example, the Office Action asserts that Ueyoko teaches that the distance between the innermost carcass structure and the bead seat is between 1 and 6 times the carcass cord diameter, and that this falls within the broad range of the claimed invention for a majority of tire constructions, as tires with a carcass cord larger than 0.85 mm are rare. The Office Action further asserts that Ueyoko specifically states that the distance is below 6 times the carcass cord diameter in order to maintain the engaging force between the bead and the rim. As such, the Office Action asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to form the tire of Ogawa with a spacing not more than 5 mm, more preferably not more than 3 mm. The Office Action also asserts that the Applicant has not provided a conclusive showing

of unexpected results to establish a criticality for the claimed spacing. Applicant respectfully disagrees with these assertions.

First, the Office Action's assertion that the dimension T4, as disclosed in col. 5, lines 40-50 of Ueyoko, allegedly corresponds to the claimed vertical distance is unreasonable. In contrast to claim 1, the distance T4 in Ueyoko is not a vertical distance from the tire bead base or its extension. Rather, the dimension T4 is the shortest distance (minimum rubber thickness) from the bead bottom face 4s to the carcass cord. Thus, Ueyoko fails to teach the claimed vertical distance.

Second, the assertion that Applicant has not shown the criticality of the claimed range is without merit. The Examiner's attention is directed to Table 1 of the present application, particularly Examples 2 and 4. The durability and bead-securing force was tested in both of these examples. A comparison of these examples shows that the pitch P, the number of carcasses n, the value $L (P/n)$, the type of bead and the overlap portion are all the same. The Table also shows that in Example 2, the distance between the bead inner end and the bead base is 5 mm and in Example 4, the distance is 3 mm. Finally, Table 1 shows that the durability and the bead-securing force are significantly better in terms of performance than the tire in Example 2. For example, the table shows that the durability for the tire in Example 4 is 112 and the bead-securing force is 108; whereas the durability for the tire in Example 2 is 110 and the bead-securing force is 106. Clearly, a comparison between Example 4 and Example 2 shows the criticality of the claimed vertical distance.

Applicant notes the Office Action's assertions in the Response to Arguments section regarding criticality. The Office Action asserts that as to the purported benefits and the results of Table 1, Applicant has not provided a conclusive showing of unexpected results to establish a criticality for the claimed spacing. The Office Action asserts that, in particular, all of the examples in Table 1 have a spacing that is not more than 5 mm and the Applicant has

not compared the inventive tire construction to one in which the spacing between the bead core and the bead base was outside the claimed range. The Office Action also notes that Table 1 does not provide a conclusive showing of unexpected results for a spacing not more than 3 mm and noting that Examples 3 and 4 have multiple parameters that are varied, as compared to Examples 1 and 2, and thus any realized benefits cannot be attributed solely to a spacing of not more than 3 mm.

As discussed above, Table 1 provides a comparison between a distance of 5 mm and a distance of 3 mm. Table 1 also shows that in Examples 2 and 4 the majority of the various parameters are the same. In this regard, Applicant submits that Examples 2 and 4 show the criticality of the claimed vertical distance. Applicant also notes that MPEP §2145 provides that consideration of rebuttal evidence and arguments requires Office personnel to give weight to the proffered evidence and arguments. Office personnel should avoid giving evidence no weight, except in rare circumstances. MPEP §2145 further states that to be entitled to substantial weight, the Applicant should establish a nexus between the rebuttal evidence and the claimed invention, i.e., objective evidence of non-obviousness must be attributable to the claimed invention. Applicant submits that for the reasons discussed above, this burden has been met and thus the Examiner should avoid giving no weight to the evidence shown in Table 1.

For at least the above reasons, the combination of applied references cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combination of all of the features positively recited in independent claim 1. Further, claims 2-6, 9, 10 and 12-14 also would not have been suggested by the combination of applied references for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly or indirectly on claim 1, as well as for the additional features each of these claims recites.

Claims 7 and 8 are rewritten in independent form. The combination of applied references would not have suggested the combination of all of the features positively recited in each of claims 7 and 8.

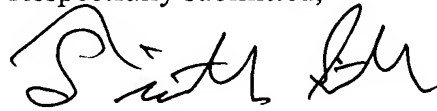
First, as noted above, the reliance on Ogawa and Ueyoko in rejecting claims 7 and 8 is unreasonable, as these references are directed to non-runflat tires. Second, claims 7 and 8 are amended to include the features recited in claim 10. For example, claims 7 and 8 recite as viewed in a section in the tire's width direction under a condition where the tire is assembled to a standard rim to form a tire/wheel assembly and then a maximum load is applied to the tire with no inner pressure applied thereto, the folded end of the turn-up layer is laid, in the tire's radial direction, outside of a line segment QB which connects an outermost point Q of a rim guard in the tire's width direction and an intersection B of the inner surface of the tire and a line extending outwardly in the tire's radial direction from the outermost point Q at an angle of 60 degrees in relation to a line parallel to the rim radial line. Neither Ogawa, Cottrell, or Ueyoko, individually or in combination, would have suggested this feature. The Office Action, on page 5, alleges that it appears that Ogawa teaches these features. This assertion is incorrect. Figs. 4 and 5 of Ogawa merely show the turn-up layer position perpendicular to the base. The drawings and disclosure of Ogawa fail to teach the angle of the turn-up layer in relation to a line parallel to the rim radial line. For at least these reasons, the combination of applied references cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combinations of the applied references cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combination of all of the features positively recited in independent claims 7 and 8.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3, 5-9 and 11-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: February 15, 2008

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